

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled).

Claims 35-76 (Cancelled).

Claims 77-105 (Cancelled).

106. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polymer, comprising the steps of:

providing an airtight container with a seal;

collecting gaseous acetaldehyde emitted by a polymer sample disposed within said airtight container;

~~extracting~~ sampling gaseous acetaldehyde emitted by said polymer into an airtight syringe;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an ~~acetaldehyde-reactive~~ MBTH reagent coated on a ~~inert~~ an alumina carrier provided within a barrel of said airtight syringe;

contacting said reacted acetaldehyde-reactive reagent with a developer to obtain a detectable response; and

measuring said response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, further including the step of agitating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, further including the step of heating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response with a chart.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step includes a photometric instrument for measuring said response.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a transmission mode.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a reflectance mode.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said developer is present in excess quantity for dissolving said reacted aldehyde-reactive reagent for forming a homogeneous solution.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is disposed within said airtight container.

116. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a preform and closure, and the inside surface of the perform is the polymer sample.

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure, and the inside surface of the bottle is the polymer sample.

118. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer sample is a preform.

119. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer sample is a bottle.

120. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer sample is in pieces.

121. (Cancelled).

122. (Previously Presented) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polyester polymer, comprising the steps of:

extracting gaseous acetaldehyde from a polymer into a hermetic headspace;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an MBTH reagent disposed on an alumina carrier in said hermetic headspace;

contacting the reacted MBTH reagent with an oxidizer solution to obtain a color response; and

measuring the color response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, further including the step of agitating said oxidizer solution for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, further including the step of heating said oxidizer solution for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response to a chart.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is conducted with a spectrophotometer.

128. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said hermetic headspace is an airtight container, said polymer disposed within said container.

129. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said hermetic headspace is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

130. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said hermetic headspace is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a preform.

132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

134. (Cancelled).

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said MBTH reagent disposed on an alumina carrier is further applied to a support strip.

136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of ferric chloride.

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of potassium ferricyanide.

138. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of lead tetraacetate.

139. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of periodic acid.

140. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polymer, comprising the steps of:

providing an airtight container having a seal;

collecting gaseous acetaldehyde emitted by a polymer sample disposed within said airtight container;

inserting through the seal of said airtight container a needle having an acetaldehyde-reactive reagent coated on an inert reagent carrier disposed therein, where said needle is provided on ~~of an airtight syringe through the seal of said airtight container;~~

~~injecting an~~ extending said acetaldehyde-reactive reagent coated on an inert reagent carrier from within the needle of said airtight syringe into said airtight container;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with said acetaldehyde-reactive reagent in said airtight container;

contacting said reacted acetaldehyde-reactive reagent with a developer to obtain a detectable response; and

measuring said response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

141. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

142. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, further including the step of agitating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

143. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, further including the step of heating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

144. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response with a chart.

145. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said measuring step includes a photometric instrument for measuring said response.

146. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a transmission mode.

147. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 145, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a reflectance mode.

148. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 140, wherein said developer is present in excess quantity for dissolving said reacted ~~aldehyde-reactive~~ acetaldehyde-reactive reagent for forming a homogeneous solution.

149. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

150. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

151. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is a preform.

152. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

153. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

154. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 140, wherein said ~~aldehyde-~~  
~~reactive~~ acetaldehyde-reactive reagent comprises a compound selected from the group  
consisting of 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride,  
4-amino-3-hydrazino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole,  
2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfonylhydrazide,  
2-diphenylacetyl-1,3-indandione-1-hydrazone, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole-4  
-nitrobenzenediazonium fluoborate, p-nitrobenzaldehyde hydrazone, 1,3-cyclohexanedione,  
3,5-diaminobenzoic acid, 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione, 2-hydroxycarbazole,  
dimedone and indole.